

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 ITC-01
/087 W

-----120421Z 019315 /14

R 111605Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4561
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USELMLO
IV TRANS BRIG, OBERURSEL
CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1279

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS
GAS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, US, UK, FR, UR, WB, GW, GE
SUBJECT: SOVIET APPROACH ON REICHSBAHN TARIFF

REF:(A) USBERLIN 1050 201533Z APR 77(B) BONN 5345 251823Z MAR 77

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SOVIETS ON APRIL 5 MADE THE REQUISITE
STATEMENT TO PLACE REICHSBAHN TARIFF QUESTION UNDER
QUADRIpartite AUSPICES. OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, AND
WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY, SOVIETS HAVE RAISED MATTER
STRESSING SOVIET VIEW THAT GDR HAD LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO
HIGHER FEES. END SUMMARY.

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2. REFTel REPORTED THAT SOVIETS MADE REQUISITE APPROACH
TO ALLIES CONCERNING REICHSBAHN TARIFFS WHICH APPEARS
TO US TO PROVIDE SATISFACTORY FOUR POWER UMBRELLA FOR
DIRECT TECHNICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE REICHSBAHN
AND THE BUNDESBahn. WE GATHER FROM BONN 5345 THAT THE
FRG-ALLIED COMMITTEE WHICH COORDINATES RAIL MATTERS WAS
BEGINNING WORK IN LATE MARCH ON A REASONABLE TARIFF

SCHEDULE,SO THAT THE BONN GROUP WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN CONCRETE TERMS. IN OUR PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION WE ASKED THE EMBSSY TO CONSIDER THE PRECEDENT WHICH MIGHT BE SET BY A TARIFF INCREASE IN TERMS OF OUR AUTOBAHN TRAVEL. THIS POINT MIGHT BE COVERED BY A DISCLAIMER TO THE SOVIETS AT SOME POINT.WE ALSO ASKED THE EMBASSY TO BEAR IN MIND THAT WE WOULD EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO RUN THE SAME VOLUME OF RAIL TRAFFIC DESPITE THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE OCCUPATION COST BUDGET FOR TRAINS.

3. WE THINK THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS -- A CONCRETE TARIFF PROPOSAL FROM OUR SIDE, CONSIDERATION OF THE PRECEDENT, AND THE PRACTICAL FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE OCB -- REMAIN THE ONLY ONES WHICH THE BONN GROUP MUST ADDRESS IN DECIDING ON THIS MATTER. AS THE SOVIETS HAVE INCREASED THE TEMPO OF THEIR DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION WE HOPE THAT THE BONN GROUP CAN MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THE QUESTION.

4. ON APRIL 29 SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR KHOTULEV TOLD FRENCH POLAD THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT A RESPONSE BUT AT LEAST "A REACTION" ON THE PART OF THE ALLIES. ON MAY 9 AT SOVIET CONGEN RECEPTION SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER TYUTYUNOV IN A FRIENDLY WAY SAID HE HOPED THE ALLIES HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THE SUBJECT. HE REITERATED SUPPORT FOR GDR REQUEST ALREADY MADE IN HIS FORMAL PRESENTATION TO CHAIRMAN ALLIED PROTOCOL OFFICER ON APRIL 5. US PROTOCOL OFFICER RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT DIRECTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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INVOLVED IN THE DETAILS OF THE PROBLEM BUT HE COULD SAY THAT WE WERE LOOKING AT IT WITH AN OPEN MIND. HE ALSO COUNSELED PATIENCE AS IT TAKES SOME TIME TO COORDINATE AMONG ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED ON A TECHNICAL SUBJECT SUCH AS THIS. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT WERE THE FOUR POWERS TO REACH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE MATTER, THE DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS. FOLLOWING EVENING TYUTYUNOV AGAIN RAISED MATTER ON AN URGENT BASIS WITH MISSION OFFICERS ATTENDING CZECH HOLIDAY RECEPTION. TYUTYUNOV SAID THE GDR IS GETTING PAPERWORK BACK FROM THE BUNDESBahn WITHOUT PAYMENT OF THE NEW TARIFF. (THIS APPARENTLY RESULTS FROM BONN GROUP DECISION, BONN 5345, THAT THE BUNDESBahn BALANCE ITS ACCOUNTS WITH THE REICHSBAHN ON THE BASIS OF THE OLD RATES).
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770568/aaaacgjz.tel
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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, US, UK, FR, UR, WB, GE, GC
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